

WOMAN'S VARIED INTERESTS

An Excellent Tea Gown



A CHARMING TEA GOWN OF MOUSSELINE DE SOIE, IN A SOFT GRAY GREEN. THIS HAS THE JACKET SO POPULAR ON THE CONTINENT. THE EMBROIDERY ON THE SILK JACKET AND ENDS OF THE LOOPEO GIRDLE IS IN OXIDIZED SILVER AND TWILIGHT BLUE.

Only When We Are Wrought to a High Emotionalism by the Spectacle of Two Million Child Workers in This Country Will Their Slavery Be Abolished, George Creel Holds.

"Calmness and dispassion are of no use in this crisis," says the co-author of "Children in Bondage." "You can't put deformity, helplessness and despair into figures; this problem is made up of blood and sweat and tears."

By CLARA GRUENING STILLMAN.

IF THE people of the United States knew what child labor really is they would stop it quickly. Not that we have not plenty of statistics and plenty of proof that the employment of children is both destructive to them and unprofitable to society, that it is dislocating industry and poisoning the race. But that is not enough. Great reforms are not carried through by a knowledge of facts and logic, but by intense and sustained emotion, and until we become emotional on the subject of the two million children in industry, until the thought of them robs us of sleep by night and of peace by day, we shall not succeed in abolishing their slavery.

Mr. George Creel's intensive investigations into the child labor problem in all parts of the country have brought him to the conclusion quoted above. "People can't be said to know," he said to me, "unless they feel."

"I have seen the child workers in every state of the Union, bent low in the blinding dust of the coal breakers, sorting the coal with bleeding fingers, watching needles that set 3,000 stitches a minute, crawling on hands and feet through the damp ooze of the cranberry bogs.

"I have seen them with ghastly faces in the glare of the white hot furnaces of the glass house, where they sweat the long nights through; in cotton mills, where the air is heavy with flying lint; in silk factories, where the shining threads weave themselves into aching eyes; in shrimp canneries, where the acid that is on the heads of shrimps eats the flesh from baby fingers.

Dispassion of No Use.

"These are the pictures to be visualized by all if the cause of child labor is to be lifted. Calmness and dispassion are of no use in this crisis. You can't put deformity and helplessness and despair into figures.

"We Americans are so afraid of being sentimental. Many people believe that the child labor will be grossly exaggerated and that it is more or less

of a hubbub inspired by muckrakers and professional agitators. Nothing could be further from the truth. On the contrary, the child labor situation has been constantly understated. Through fear of being charged with sensationalism, the national committee and the various state organizations have excluded the blood and sweat and tears from their reports. But this problem is made up of blood and sweat and tears. If you leave them out, you can't deal with it effectively."

And this is what Mr. Creel has tried to do in his study of "Children in Bondage," written in collaboration with Judge Ben Lindsey and Edwin Markham and recently published by Hearst's International Library Company.

Time Ripe for Anti-Child Labor Agitation.

"The time is ripe for a great wave of anti-child labor agitation," Mr. Creel went on, "people's hearts are softer than they ever were before, and social problems are accorded an importance that is new to civilization. One principal feature of the fight is to secure recognition of the underlying and compelling relation that toiling children bear to vice, crime, low wages, unemployment and congestion.

"Then we must get Congress and the Legislatures to take the same burning interest in the welfare of children that they have long manifested in crops and livestock. During all these years, when children have been exploited to their destruction and despair, without inquiry or even interest, thousands of dollars were spent in waging war against cattle fevers and hog cholera. And while it was impossible to learn anything authoritative with regard to child labor in the cotton mills, the government issued report after report on the cotton crop and the proper way to proceed against the boll weevil.

"In the Gulf States there are tender laws for the protection of the oyster and the shrimp, dealing minutely with the crime of tearing them from their beds before they have attained a certain size and length, but there are no laws that prescribe penalties for those ruth-



GEORGE CREEL

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"The child in industry depresses the adult wage. This is one of the most pernicious effects of the system."

"I cannot emphasize too strongly my belief that a high emotionalism is needed in dealing with questions of human life and happiness."

CHELSEA DEMANDS NEW SCHOOL HOUSE

Neighborhood Association Leads Fight on Board of Education.

DECLARES EXISTING BUILDINGS BARBARIC

Shows That Sale of Old Sites Would Provide for All Cost and \$166,000 Over.

By HENRIETTA RODMAN.

The Chelsea Neighborhood Association comes forward as the champion of the children of Chelsea, the district extending from Fourteenth to Forty-second Street, west of Fifth Avenue.

The association asks that three wretched old school buildings in the neighborhood shall be abandoned and a modern, well equipped school built on a West Twentieth Street site which the Board of Education has owned for seven years and left unimproved.

Through Knowlton Durham, president, and Edward H. Pfeiffer, executive secretary, the association issued a lengthy report last night urging a modern public school on the West Twentieth Street site, the funds to be obtained by vacating the three old building and selling the sites.

"Each of the three old buildings was built prior to 1869," says the report, which is to be brought before the Board of Education on Wednesday. "Not one is fireproof or partially so. Eighty per cent of Chelsea's classrooms are crowded beyond their legal capacity. Wardrobe and drinking facilities are inadequate and toilet facilities barbaric."

"Since the sites of the old public schools are valued by the city's real estate bureau at \$600,000 and the proposed new school would cost only \$434,000, by vacating these old buildings and selling the sites \$166,000 would be realized for other school purposes."

The report is accompanied by photographs to prove the association's contentions that the present school buildings are out of date.

The People's Institute, Woman's Municipal League, Y. M. C. A., Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor and the parents, taxpayers and business organizations of the community are backing the demand for the new school.

Apparently its only opponent is Dr. Maxwell, the City Superintendent of Schools. He is quoted as saying that the population of the neighborhood is decreasing, and that children would have to travel nearly a mile to the new school.

The Chelsea Neighborhood Association denies the accuracy of both statements.

Good luck to the children of Chelsea and more power to its neighborhood association!

Assemblyman Nicholas Neuhauer, of Queens, has introduced a bill which deserves the attention of Mr. Neuhauer's constituents.

In it he places marriage with immoral conduct and inability to teach as a cause of dismissal from the schools. Such an attack upon marriage is an attack upon the system of morality for which marriage stands.

Mr. Neuhauer's bill should become a law its result would be hundreds of secret marriages, with the accompanying dangers.

The bill menaces the welfare of the school, of women and the stability of marriage itself.

There is a very interesting evening school, 34, in The Bronx.

The principal is Edward D. Stryker, who, by the way, is an educator.

One of 34's interesting departures from orthodox school work was the establishment of a civil service class. Graduates of this class are now in positions in the railway mail service, the War Department, the Custom House, the Police and Fire departments, the Topographical Bureau of the Bronx and in a number of clerical jobs in city and borough offices. The school is on the mailing list of the federal, state and municipal civil service commissions and keeps in close touch with the work.

The workshop, Mr. Stryker told me, "an innovation was undertaken which has proved a great success. There were a number of youths who congregated on the street corners and made trouble for the shopkeepers and the police. We worked among them and have succeeded in getting most of them interested in the shop work."

"They are regular in attendance and, having the social graces, they are gaining in self-respect and commanding the respect of their comrades and teachers. Two of them, working together, have built a model of the material being furnished by themselves. I think this idea makes one of the strongest claims for the existence of a shop class from the community as well as the individual point of view."

Presidents of fourteen associations of teachers have signed a resolution disapproving the proposed plan that the regular day school shall carry on the vacation schools.

They added:

"We do not oppose summer school activities; on the contrary, we believe that the summer school is a grave mistake. The problem is: What should the work during the summer be, and who should do the work?"

A reception by the ungraded teachers of The Bronx in honor of Miss Elizabeth E. Farrell, inspector of the ungraded classes, will be held at Public School 4, Fulton Avenue and 173d Street, to-morrow evening.

TELLS OF LIFE IN ARMY

New Film at Vitaphone Shows Effects of Wives' Gossip.

"The Juggernaut," which continues to head the bill at the Vitaphone, has been augmented by a military drama in three parts, called "Lifting the Ban of Coventry." This new photo play shows what a big part wives play in the careers of army officers, and 'rings out what ostracism means to a man in the army. Some stirring scenes, actually staged in West Point, make this film one worth seeing.

The other numbers consist of a comic picture, with Sydney Drew playing the lead, and "Cutey Becomes a Landlord," with Wally Van as Cutey, his own creation.

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BELGIUM'S THANKS POUR INTO U. S.

Letters from People of Stricken Nation Express Gratitude for Aid.

GOD BLESS YOU, SAY THOUSANDS

Sembrich to Sing in Boston for Polish Relief—Funds Growing Daily.

More than 200 letters were being sorted yesterday in the offices of the Commission for Relief in Belgium. They conveyed the thanks of the Belgians to the people of the United States; not the perfunctory and formal messages of gratitude which rulers of nations exchange, but the simple, cordial word one stout-hearted neighbor gives another who has helped him in adversity.

Some are signed by as many as 150 citizens, some by the burgomaster and his council, and some by the burgomaster alone. Some are inscribed on parchment with illuminated borders and decorated with the arms and national colors of Belgium. Some are written on the plainest of paper. In every one a courteous and simple people speaks. About half the population of Belgium is represented by the letters. Not one seems to have the slightest doubt that he and his neighbors were rescued in the nick of time from privation and starvation.

"Be certain, Mr. Chairman," writes Dr. V. N. Werzie, burgomaster of Jette-St. Pierre, "that the memory of your benefactions will always be kept by the people of Jette-St. Pierre. These marks of sympathy are particularly precious to us, when we know that even the children of noble American husbands have helped us; and we have learned to love them, too. This sympathy is the best encouragement to us to preserve in the course of patience and resignation that we have been so long months at present we can bless you with all our hearts. All among us, rich and poor, have been united in the same misfortune; the one you have saved from absolute privation and the other, perhaps, from death itself."

Many Receive Aid.

In Jette-St. Pierre the commission clothed 1,500 families, found work for 600 and issued 4,000 rations daily.

In the name of the Commune of Lummen, writes its burgomaster, "I send you the expressions of gratitude from the entire population. Fire destroyed 65 of our houses and made homeless 73 families. It is only because of your efforts that we have been able to resist famine and the rigors of the season."

Six citizens of Halen sent a letter of thanks for preservation of many of their lives from starvation. The authorities of the Commune of Heers are "eternally grateful" and hope sometime to "prove this sentiment by their acts."

"Our parish at Kerkhoven," writes members of the Council, "formed from three communes very widely separated, had found itself far from every freight food centre. The population is very poor, and even in normal times scarcely earns from a barren soil a meagre subsistence. Added to this, more than 400 children were about to be victims of the famine. It is only because of your elementary duties if we did not try to thank you in the name of our entire population, which you have saved. May God bless you! May the generous heart that came to us forget what you have done, and may history reserve for you one of its most beautiful pages."

Zeppere sent thanks "in the name of our 1,700 inhabitants, of workers and small farmers." From Levingen, from Malines, from Peer, from Acheil and from a host of other communities, which even the war has not made familiar to American ears, came gratitude and good wishes.

Tribute to America.

"The Committee of Zeelham," writes one of its members, "addresses a humble greeting to the mighty republic of America. All the population of Zeelham knows that each American has contributed to the work of combined generosity which your commission has so admirably undertaken. It will also remember that if it has been spared the curse of famine it owes this to you—the American nation, toward whom turn all the nations of the world—because the world feels itself dominated by the powers of peace and the justice which is yours."

Mrs. Sembrich, who will go to Boston on Wednesday to sing for the American Polish Relief Fund, has organized a concert for the same purpose to take place in New York Sunday afternoon, April 18, at Carnegie Hall. Appearing with her will be Josef Hofmann, Mme. Alma Gluck and Efrim Zimbalist.

The Committee of Mercy acknowledged yesterday contributions which bring its fund to \$126,337.71. "A friend in Baltimore" sent \$150.

An appeal for funds to be used before Passover begins, on March 29, has been sent out by the American Jewish Relief Committee, the Central Committee for the Relief of Jews Suffering Through the War and the Provisional Executive Committee for General Zionist Affairs.

The Weight of Temptation and Confidence

By SIDONIE MATZNER GRUENBERG.

IN the books we have read many of the interesting incidents turn out to be more or less ingenious contrivances of the young people to escape or circumvent the prohibitions or orders of the older people. The circus is to come to town next week, and Billy is explicitly told he is not to attend; yet somehow Billy manages to be there when the clown tumbles off the elephant's back—and somehow the stern and righteous parents fail to know about it until it is much too late. Caroline was very anxious to go to the dance they were going to have at Cobb's, and said so. But her mother was equally anxious that she should not go—for reasons of her own—and also said so. But on the night of the dance Caroline was there, while her parents supposed she was spending the night with her friend Jenny and had forgotten all about the dance.

This sort of thing happens so frequently in real life that even those who never read any books can multiply instances. But the thing I am most curious about in this connection is not contained either in the books or in the ordinary conversation of the people we meet. Just what is it that parents have in mind when they lay down their orders, in direct and obvious opposition to the wishes of the children? Do they feel satisfied that the issuing of an order is sufficient to bring about the desired result? Do they expect the children to accept the word of authority and immediately dismiss their own longings and yearnings?

To make a child do something that is contrary to his liking you have but to employ sufficient coercion—and he



"THEY ALL MELTED AWAY."



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will go through the motions. But unless he comes to like it, the temptation will always be to shirk or evade the imposed task. It is, therefore, unwise to leave a child too long to himself with the responsibility of completing the unpleasant duties. And it is unfair, when he falls down, to upbraid him for his failure. The younger the child, the more difficult it is for him to keep before his mind the desirability of doing the unpleasant, or the penalty of failure. What we require of children should be adapted to the growing ability to bear responsibility.

This, it seems, is what the parents of the Billies and the Carolines have overlooked. They have issued their prohibitions and then turned to other affairs; the children, however, do not forget the heart's desires. The embargo is merely an obstacle to be overcome; if teasing will not lift the embargo, then the blockade must be run. It would be a good plan for the parents to keep a calendar and then prepare themselves to meet critical periods in advance. Billy's father, for example, fearing the demoralizing effects of the circus, might have arranged for a Sunday school picnic to absorb the interests and energies and the time that went normally to the circus. In like manner, Caroline's mother should have anticipated the night of the dance with provision for a different way of spending the time. There are many ways of substituting one interest for another, but ignoring the wishes of children or forbidding their satisfaction will either tempt to intrigue and disobedience or arouse resentment and bitterness.

Four-year-old Richard, about to leave after a visit with his mother, was given two candies for himself and two to take home to his brother. He

promptly disposed of his own, and the others were wrapped and placed in his pocket. Later in the day, when the brother came home he was informed that Richard had some candy for him; but when Richard was questioned he declared that "they all melted away." Of course they had not melted away, except in his mouth; the story simply indicated the limit of his resources in inventing an explanation for their disappearance that would not reflect too severely upon himself. He had to admit, finally, that he had eaten them, and he then showed the appropriate kind and amount of remorse.

While it was proper to trust the child with the candies to take home to his brother, it was really too much to expect him to remain their custodian, unwatched, for two hours. The confidence in the child was not proportioned to his ability to resist the temptation, and was therefore misplaced. The candies should have been taken from him after he came home; he had fulfilled his duty in bringing them home without invading their integrity. A child of seven or eight could easily have carried the burden of temptation for a longer period, but for the younger child it is usually too much.

Elizabeth, when she was eight years old, developed an unusual appetite for sugar, and was constantly at the sugar bowl. The mother at last resorted to a locked cupboard, where she unostentatiously placed the sugar bowl, beyond the reach of temptation. Some of her friends criticized this action, on the theory that she was thus weakening Elizabeth's will. But the mother was probably right. Nothing is to be gained by entrusting the child with a duty that she is unable to meet; and

nothing is gained by exposing her to excessive temptation. While it is true that the will is strengthened by overcoming temptations, it is equally true that it suffers when compelled to yield too often. Too much trust is virtually too much temptation. Confidence in a child, like responsibility, should be proportioned to the child's ability to use it properly.

As Mrs. Annie Winsor Allen says in her "Home, School and Vacation," "life is full of temptations. We should not unnecessarily multiply them by asking of a child more self-restraint than he has yet fully learned. It is fair to trust a child of ten not to run away, but it is not fair to trust a child of three. It is not fair to leave 'yellow journals' round and then tell a child of any age that you trust him not to read them. The temptation is too strong and constant."

And there is the Palmer-Owen bill, which has passed the House, but not the Senate, but which will be pushed again until it becomes a law and makes impossible the interstate transportation of the products of child labor. Arizona alone has passed the former law. In other states the age limit varies from twelve to fourteen, but there are many outrageous exemptions, and in some cases an entire lack of proper inspection and law enforcement.

South Exempts "Child of Dependent Parents."

Charles L. Clute, a reliable authority, has stated that two-thirds of the states have no effective enforcement of child labor laws, and that not more than ten have even a fair system of factory inspection. "The Southern states exempt the 'child of dependent parents,' others demand no proof of age," said Mr. Creel in this regard. "In Rhode Island working certificates are not kept on file, with the result that one certificate issued to a boy of fourteen may do duty for a

"Confidence in a Child Should Be Proportioned to the Child's Ability to Use It Properly."

